APR-01-2002 MON 05:42 PM HARTER, SECREST & EMERY

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HARTER, SECREST & EMERY LLT

PATENTS

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Krivitski, Nikolai M.

Atty. Docket: 86017.000010

Serial No.:

09/419,849

Examiner: C. Dickens

Filed:

October 19, 1999

Art Unit: 2855

Title:

METHOD AND APPARATUS TO MEASURE BLOOD FLOW BY AN

INTRODUCED VOLUME CHANGE

AMENDMENT

FAX COPY RECEIVED

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

APR 1 - 2002

Sir:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

In response to the Office Action mailed October 1, 2001, please consider the application amended as follows:

In the Claims:

1. (Once Amended) A method for determining an initial flow rate of a liquid in a conduit, comprising:

- (a) introducing a discrete known volume over a known time to the initial flow rate;
- (b) sensing a corresponding resulting change in the flow in the conduit; and
- (c) determining the initial flow rate in response to the introduced known volume, the known time and the sensed resulting change.
- 2. (Once Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein introducing the discrete known volume over the known time includes injecting or withdrawing the discrete volume from the conduit.
- 3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising employing one of a flow characteristic sensor and a liquid characteristic sensor.